i. Yesterday and Yesterday and Yesterday

Each moment seems more urgent than all preceding ones; each generation of men are convinced that their difficulties and achievements are unparalleled. One of the few constants in life, for the individual and for the community, is a sense of crisis. According to Johnson, Milton believed that after the Restoration the times were so out of joint that trees and grass had lost heart as he had, and grew more tardily than before. In the same way, Mr. Middleton Murry has proclaimed in all seriousness 'a major crisis, not merely in the history of human life, but of life itself/[1] and the Pope, 'perhaps the most serious and widespread crisis since the Deluge'; while Mr. Wells, in *The Fate of Homo Sapiens,* describes the Nazi movement as 'the most urgent challenge the human mind will have ever had to face/ and considers that it 'may well bring disaster to our species/

Men aim at projecting their own inward unease on to as large a screen as possible. When they tremble, the universe must; when their great ones die, the elements must register disturbance. A tremendous thunder-storm is commonly believed to have marked the occasions when Cromwell and Napoleon breathed

their last, though in Napoleons case it has been pointed out that no reference to this storm appears in the log of a ship which happened to be anchored off St. Helena when it was supposed to have taken pkce. The passing of each sovereign and statesman is presented as the end of an epoch; and when a Lenin or a

[1] In *Heaven*—and Earth.